Haridaspur-Paradip Broad gauge line

*511. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited expression of interest in the 82 kms. Haridaspur-Paradip broad gauge rail link in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to expedite completion of other on-going projects in the State to meet the increased freight and passenger traffic demand as a result of industrialization of the State?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Expression of interest for Haridaspur-Paradip new rail project was invited and a total of six offers were received which are under examination by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL).

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken for expediting the progress of the projects. RVNL has been entrusted with 3 New Line, 4 Doubling and 2 Railway Electrification projects for fast track execution by the railways through the provision of higher allocation in the year 2006-07.

Underbridges at important railway crossings

†*512. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: DR.
PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that lakhs of people are forced to waste their time, petrol and diesel due to closure of barriers of railway crossings at several places throughout the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to have special provision in the budget for construction of under bridges at important railway crossings to check

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

wastage of time, money and labour and to facilitate passengers in *large.* number, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) There are 16642 numbers of manned level crossings on Indian Railways where the level crossings gates have to be closed for the passage of trains on safety considerations. For the speedy and timely movement of passengers and goods, the train movement has the priority and right of way. However, every possible effort is made to see that road traffic through level crossing gates is not stopped for long durations. Further, to allow free flow of road traffic at busy level crossings, Railways encourage the construction of road over/under bridges in lieu of such level crossings by even sharing 50% of the cost of construction. The Railway takes up works for Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) in lieu of existing busy level crossings on cost sharing basis with concerned State Government/Road Authorities where traffic density at the level crossing is more than 1 lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) (TVU-A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours); Otherwise on deposit terms. In both cases proposals have to be sponsored by concerned State Government/Road Authorities duly fulfiling certain preliminary pre-requisites. States Government/ Road Authorities are required to submit the following main undertakings along with the proposal:

(i) The level crossing will be closed by State Government/Road Authorities on commissioning of ROB/RUB.

(ii) The State Government/Road Authorities will contribute their share of cost for work.

(iii) The advance action shall be taken by State Government/ Road Authorities to acquire land for approaches where eve-required.

(iv) The State Government/Road Authorities will give due priority for the work in its Annual Plan etc.

The total cost of work is shared on 50:50 basis between Railway and State Government/Road Authorities. However, the cost of acquisition of any land and structures thereon required for approaches or diversion is to be borne by State Government/Road Authorities sponsoring the proposal.

Menace of quacks

†*513. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many quacks are arbitrarily treating the patients by charging them high fees after opening their own clinics without having the required license and proper degree;

(b) whether treatment by such quacks is risky for the patients' health; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or being taken by Government to close down these clinics together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAM DOSS): (a) to (c) According to the provisions contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956,.the Indian Medical Central Council Act, 1970, and Homeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered practitioner can practice medicine. Provisions exist in these Acts to take action against unregistered practitioners of the medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the Provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective Acts. However, it is for the State Government to take action against the clinics that are run without proper License.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.